

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [006] of the Application as follows:

[001] Other methods for selecting BSPs in SMP systems identify the first processor to write to a shared variable as the BSP. In these systems, a race occurs between all of the eligible processors. The processor with the [fasted] fastest initialization time is typically elected to be the BSP. Once a BSP has been initially determined for a particular set of processors that particular processor remains the BSP unless something happens to change the initialization time of a processor in that set of processors. Vendors tend to base decisions and assumptions using this particular processor as being the BSP. However, both later versions of a processor, such as version 2 or version 3, and later versions of micro code associated with a processor can significantly affect the initialization time of a particular processor. Thus, if any processor in the system under goes such a change, due to maintenance, replacing a defective component, upgrading to a newer version to take advantage of a new capability, etc, then the race may create a new BSP. However, after the time that the vendors have based their assumptions on a particular processor being the BSP, then having an unpredictable BSP process is not beneficial. A further disadvantage is that more system components must be initialized before the BSP may be determined. These systems must initialize components outside the processors themselves, such as a shared variable in the chipset, to determine the BSP.